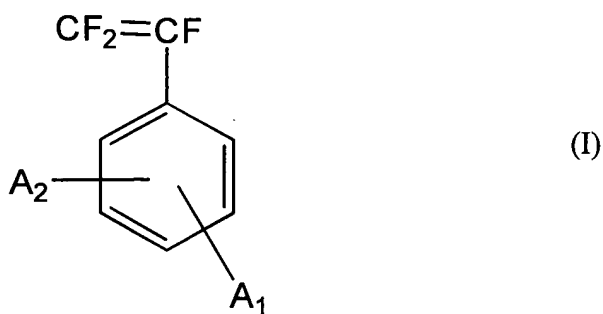


Amendments to the Claims:

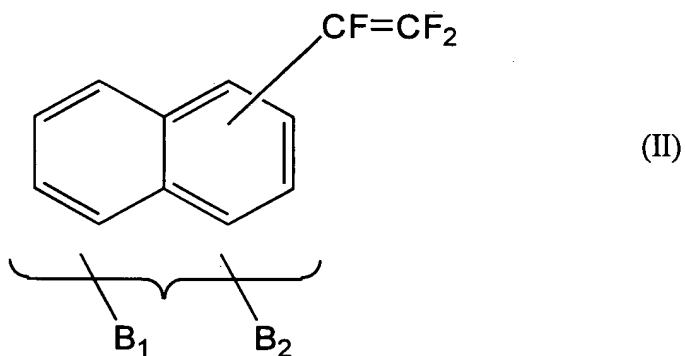
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A membrane comprising a polymeric base film to which has been graft polymerized a monomer selected from the group consisting of monomers of formula (I)



and formula (II)



where A₁, A₂, and B₁, B₂ are independently selected from the group of consisting of:
hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, cyclic alkyl,

cyclic amine, cyclic ether, cyclic thioether,

Ar, wherein Ar is other than Ph when one of A₁ and A₂ is hydrogen,

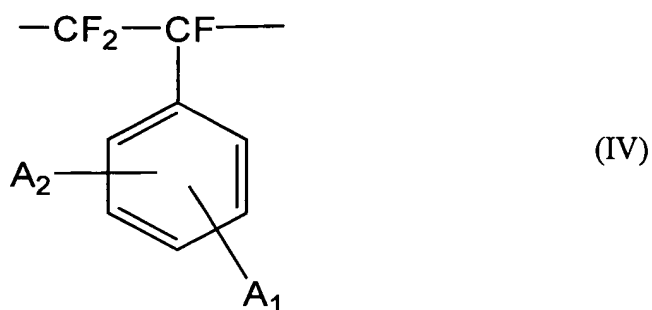
CH(X)Ph, where X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl and Ph,

PRR' and P(OR)(OR'), where R and R' are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cyclic alkyl and Ph, and

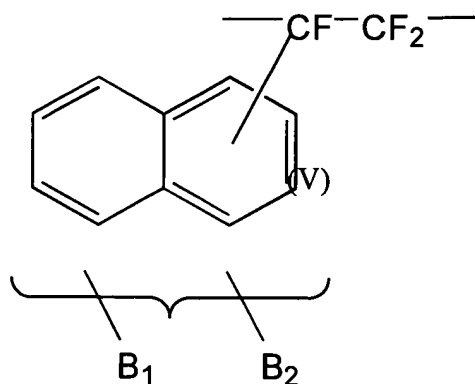
wherein at least one of substituents A₁, A₂, B₁ and B₂ is other than hydrogen.

2-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Original) A membrane comprising a polymeric base film with grafted chains comprising monomer units selected from the group consisting of monomer units of formula (IV)



and formula (V)



where A_1 , A_2 , and B_1 , B_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of:

hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, cyclic alkyl,

cyclic amine, cyclic ether, cyclic thioether,

Ar, wherein Ar is other than Ph when one of A_1 and A_2 is hydrogen,

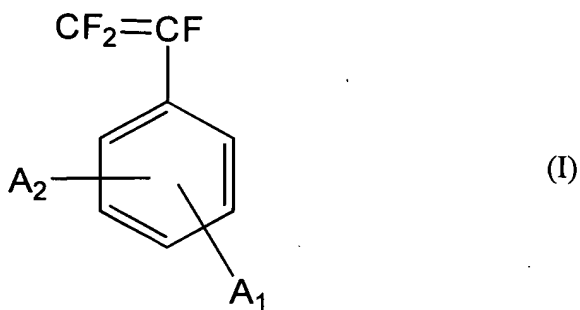
$\text{CH}(\text{X})\text{Ph}$, where X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl and Ph,

PRR' and $\text{P}(\text{OR})(\text{OR}')$, where R and R' are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cyclic alkyl and Ph,

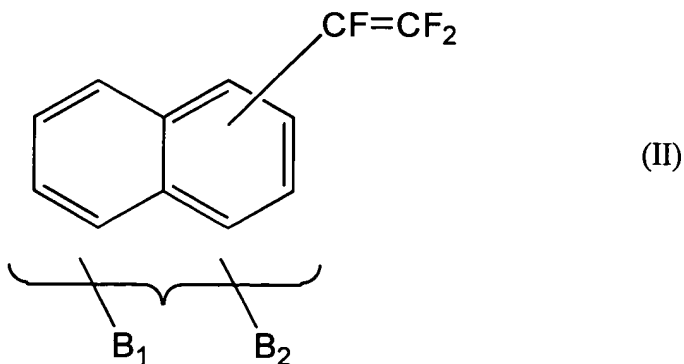
and wherein at least one of substituents A_1 , A_2 , B_1 and B_2 is other than hydrogen.

38-68. (Cancelled)

69. (Original) A method of preparing a membrane, the method comprising graft polymerizing to a polymeric base film a monomer selected from the group consisting of monomers of formula (I)



and formula (II)

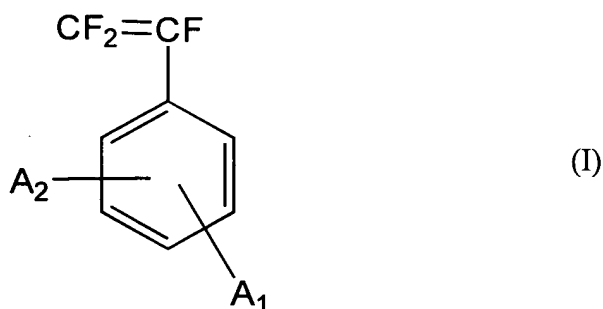


wherein, in the selected monomer, at least one of substituents A_1 , A_2 , and B_1 , B_2 is a non-hydrogen substituent that activates said monomer with respect to said graft polymerization, and said method further comprises:

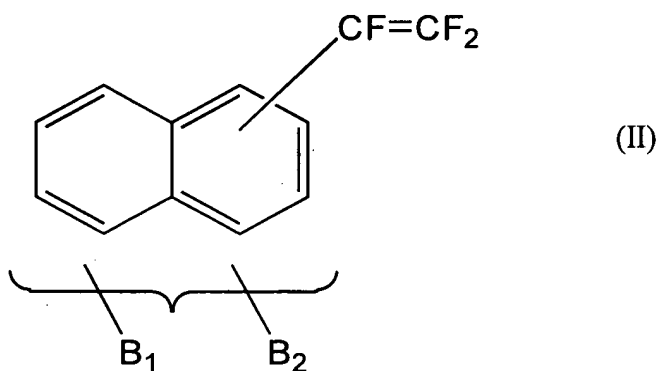
introducing a sulfonate group into at least a portion of said graft polymerized monomer units; and

converting at least a portion of said non-hydrogen substituents to substituents that are deactivating with respect to desulfonation.

70. (Original) A method of preparing a membrane, said method comprising graft polymerizing to a polymeric base film a monomer selected from the group consisting of monomers of formula (I)



and formula (II)



where A_1 , A_2 , and B_1 , B_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of:

hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, cyclic alkyl,

cyclic amine, cyclic ether, cyclic thioether,

Ar, wherein Ar is other than Ph when one of A_1 and A_2 is hydrogen,

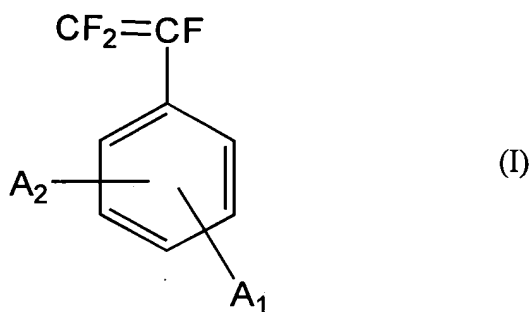
$CH(X)Ph$, where X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl and Ph,

PRR' and $P(OR)(OR')$, where R and R' are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cyclic alkyl and Ph, and

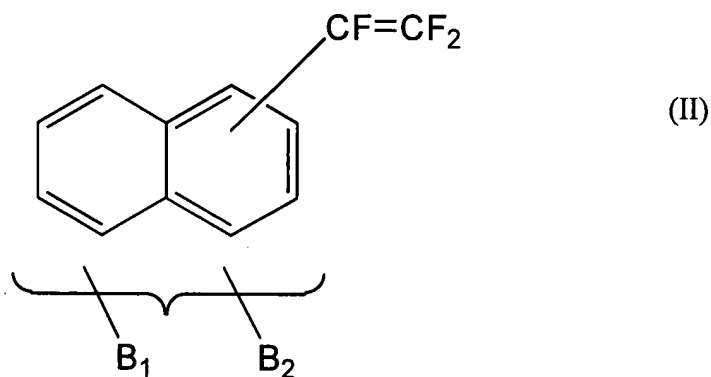
wherein at least one of substituents A_1 , A_2 , B_1 and B_2 is other than hydrogen.

71-80. (Cancelled)

81. (Original) A method of preparing a membrane comprising graft polymerizing to a polymeric base film a monomer selected from the group consisting of monomers of formula (I)



and formula (II)



where A_1 and B_1 are independently selected from the group consisting of:

PRR', P(OR)(OR'), and SR, where R and R' are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cyclic alkyl and Ph, and

A_2 is selected from the group consisting of A_1 and hydrogen, and B_2 is selected from the group consisting of B_1 and hydrogen,

the method further comprising subjecting at least a portion of one of the PRR', the P(OR)(OR') and the SR groups to oxidation.

82-85. (Cancelled)